GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4379
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2017
Mars Mission
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning for Mars Orbiter Mission II and Mission to Venus;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether ISRO and NASA have initiated talks to jointly undertake studies on using electrical propulsion for powering the above missions;
(d) if so, the details thereof;
(e) whether the ISRO through its commercial arm, Antrix is trying to build up a reputation as a low-cost and high-efficiency launcher of small satellites; and
(f) if so, the details thereof along with the revenue earned during the last three years by the ISRO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) & (b)
Presently, a study team is deliberating on the feasibility of future inter-planetary missions to Mars and Venus. The study team's recommendations will be reviewed by Advisory Committee for Space Sciences (ADCOS) for further considerations. A call for proposals through an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) has been made within India to seek proposals for scientific experiments for Mars Orbiter Mission-2. Once received, the advisory committee will scrutinize the scientific proposals.

(c) No Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f)
As of now, the spare capacity available onboard PSLV, after meeting the national requirements, is provided for commercial launch services through Antrix. PSLV with 38 consecutively successful missions has demonstrated its reliability and efficiency. It has also proven its versatility in launching multi-satellite/ multi-orbit missions. Till date, 180 foreign customer satellites, in the nano, micro and small satellite class, from 23 countries have been successfully launched onboard PSLV. While PSLV has already established itself as a preferred launch vehicle, in its class, in the global satellite market, it is expected to further strengthen its commercial footprint in the global market for launch services, especially for smaller satellites.

During the last three years, Antrix has earned a revenue of 107 Million Euros and 4.5 Million USD through launching of 145 foreign satellites.

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